



BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

Spring 2017 Volume 2, Issue 4

“If you can Imagine it,
you can Achieve it;
If you can Dream it;
you can Become it”

William Arthur Ward

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City of Columbia City
112 South Chauncey Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
(260) 248-5100
info@columbiacity.net

Columbia City CityScene

Trash & Junk days

Theresa Green, Executive Secretary



There seems to be confusion around junk pick up and normal trash pickup. So below are the rules to hopefully make trash day better for everyone!

Normal trash:

1. Trash must be out by 5AM the morning of your pick up day to guarantee pickup.
2. Nothing can be hanging out of the bin - the lid must be completely closed.
3. Bags sat out by your bin will not be picked up and will result in none of your trash being picked up. The contract between the city and company prohibits pick up of trash bags outside of the bin.
4. Every home receiving trash pickup services from the city gets ONE bin only.
5. Trash services will be delayed by one day for only the following holidays: Christmas, New Years, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. If the holiday falls on a weekend, trash will not be delayed.

If you do have additional trash that will not fit in your bin you can purchase specially marked bags at city hall for \$1. The drivers will pick these up next to your tote.

Junk pickup:

1. Your junk will be picked up in the same spot as your normal trash. If it is not in that spot, it will not be picked up.
2. This is a single pass pickup.
3. Anything longer than 6feet will not be picked up.
4. No large appliances will be picked up, nor will tires. You must call city hall to schedule a special pickup for these items 260-248-5100.
5. No construction materials allowed.
6. Pickup this year is *ONE* day only, not the entire week.

Community Events

3/17/17 – St. Patrick’s Day



4/8/2017 – Art in the Alley
9am-1pm (downtown)



4/14/2017 - Good Friday
City Hall closed

4/16/17 - Easter



4/28/2017 - Junk Pick up
(West of Main Street)

5/13/2017 – Art in the Alley
9am-1pm (downtown)

5/5/2017 - Junk Pick up
(East of Main Street)



5/29/2017 - Memorial Day
City Hall Closed



ATTENTION!

Junk Pick up Dates for 2017:

West Side: April 28th
East Side: May 5th

Citizen in the Spotlight!

By: Theresa Green, Executive Secretary



Many of you may not have heard of Kimberly Jones; however I bet most people in Columbia City has heard of or even shopped at Rubies and Whimsy's. Kimberly is co-owner and manager at Rubies and Whimsy's along with her husband Jerry. Kim and Jerry have two children Regan (20) and Lilliana (12). Kim and Jerry have chosen to put roots down here in Columbia City Indiana. When asked why, she explained, it is where she was born and raised and loves the friendliness of the community. So naturally Columbia City was a great place to invest through the opening of a little clothing store in downtown Columbia City. It all started with a love of jewelry. Kim started making and selling hand-stamped jewelry online and at craft shows. The jewelry business proved a success. Kim then started selling apparel at clothing shows and couldn't keep anything in stock. That is when Kim and Jerry decided to take a leap of faith and open Rubies and Whimsy's. When Kim and Jerry aren't busy running the store, they love to spend time with family. Whether it is going to the movies, playing air hockey or just sharing a meal together, family time is important to them. A quote that Kim lives by says: "Just be yourself, let people see the real, imperfect, flawed, quirky, weird, beautiful, magical person you are".

Meetings to Remember

1st Mondays of Each Month, 7pm
WC Government Center
Columbia City Plan Commission

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Board of Works and Safety

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
City Council Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Each Month, Noon
City Hall – Council Chambers
CC Redevelopment Commission

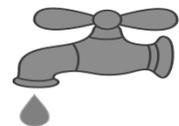
3rd Monday of Each Month, 6pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Park Board

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5pm
City Hall – Council Chambers
Columbia City Housing Authority

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 5:30pm
City Hall – Conference Room
Columbia City Tree Board

Water, Water, Water

By: Columbia City Water Superintendent Mike Shoda



SAVE WATER. People have collected, stored and used rain water for centuries. Harvested rain water was once an essential source of water for home use. Most residents of Columbia City pay a monthly water bill. Harvested rainwater is free. Homeowners can save up to 1300 gallons of tap water during spring and summer by using a rain barrel to water their gardens and landscapes. Harvested rain water is very good for flowers, trees and shrubs. Rain water is naturally soft water and doesn't contain chlorine or salt.

STOP WATER POLLUTION. Each time it rains or snow melts, storm water runs off over streets, driveways, parking lots and yards and picks up pollutants along the way. Sooner or later, this polluted runoff enters our lakes, rivers and streams. Polluted storm water is the biggest source of the water pollution that impairs Whitley County's lakes, rivers and streams. You can reduce the amount of polluted storm water runoff by installing a rain barrel to harvest rain water during the growing season.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? The City of Columbia City Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) offers a one-time rebate of \$30 to City residents who pay a monthly storm water fee and who purchase and install a rain barrel that meets the requirements of the MS4. These requirements and the rebate claim forms are posted on our City's storm water webpage, www.columbiacity.net/community/stormwater-2/. Information about other ways to prevent storm water pollution is also available on the webpage.

Declining Volunteerism in local Fire Departments

By: Columbia City Fire Chief Thomas LaRue



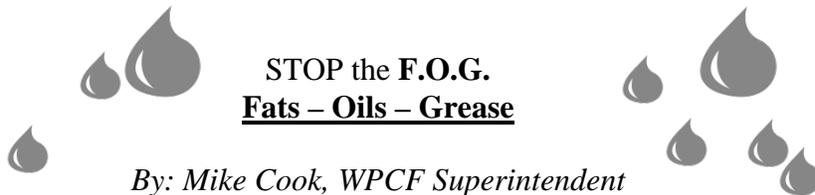
Fire departments nationwide are seeing declines in volunteerism with very few solutions to the issue. Locally, we have been advertising and trying to make a public awareness of our need for volunteers. We are still losing volunteers faster than we are gaining them.

Vocational fire classes in local schools have been shown to be successful in other communities and we approached the Whitley County Consolidated School District with this idea several years ago. Everyone seemed to be behind this idea; however, financing the program was an issue.

With the help of the Whitley County Community Foundation, we were able to acquire two grants that helped make this a reality. The first grant was through the foundation and paid for the turnout gear the students need to do the training and a second grant was written by Asst. Superintendent Dr. McDermott from WCCS for a Dekko Foundation grant from which we received matching startup money. The Whitley County Fire Chiefs Association, Columbia City Common Council and Board of Works clearly saw the need for this program and stood behind it to make it a reality.

These students, as I mentioned, can use these certifications if they so desire to help them acquire fulltime or volunteer positions in and out of our community. It has been shown by similar vocational trainings that the local benefits far outweigh the costs of these classes. Hopefully we will see the same scenario play out in our community where both the students and local fire departments will gain. It would take hiring numerous fulltime firefighters to take over what our volunteers are doing to keep us adequately staffed.

I would like to give everyone involved in this program a huge “thank you” and an early congratulations to all of the students who are taking this academy class. Good Luck!!!



STOP the **F.O.G.** Fats – Oils – Grease

By: Mike Cook, WPCF Superintendent

F.O.G. can cause several different problems for residents and municipalities. When F.O.G. is disposed of down resident drains it will solidify and over time cause buildups and blockages in pipes, lift stations and sewer lines. This, in turn, results in hundreds or potentially thousands of dollars to residents and municipalities to clean (or worse replace) their sewer lines. By following a few simple steps these expensive service calls and repairs can be avoided.

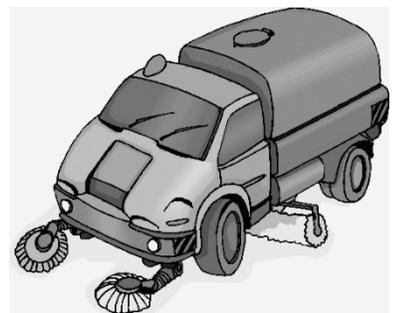
1. Bake instead of frying foods.
2. Scrape plates into trash before washing or putting in dishwasher.
3. Allow grease to solidify and scrape pans and baking dishes into trash before washing or putting in dishwasher.
4. Collect used grease in unwanted containers and store in freezer and dispose of on trash day.

If we all take a little extra time and **STOP the F.O.G.** we can keep our pipes and sewers lines flowing freely, which allows us all to save time and money!

Did you know??



Last year alone, the Columbia City Street Department swept up 164,000 tons of debris of the streets?



Our ADA Transition & Title VI Implementation Plan

By Beth Igney, City of Columbia City Human Resource Director/ADA and Title VI Coordinator



The City of Columbia City recognizes its legal obligations to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 49 CFR Part 26 and its related statutes and regulations to ensure that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity on the grounds of race, color, age, sex, disability, national origin (including Limited English Proficiency), or income status". To this end, you will find the City's Title VI Implementation Plan on our website under the Government link.

The City is committed to ensuring that community involvement and outreach is done in a respectful and inclusive manner that will allow for diverse involvement. Public meetings, programs, and activities will provide equitable opportunities for participating. City Council meetings are open to the public. All public meetings are held in locations accessible to individuals with disabilities. Upon request, assistance and translation services may be made available to individuals in need of such services as soon as possible but no later than 48 business hours before the scheduled meeting by contacting Beth Igney, ADA/Title VI Coordinator at 260-248-5109.

To assist us in community involvement, you will notice several means of data collection throughout the year. A voluntary Title VI Public Involvement Survey, regarding programs and activities, will be included in program materials and at public meetings. Copies of this survey will be in the Mayor's office and located on our website.



Columbia City Parks and Recreation Newsletter By: Mark Green, Park Director



Summer baseball and softball registration will be ending on March 3rd. Registration can be completed online at www.columbiacityparks.us or in our park office at Morsches Park. The Opening Day for 2017 is scheduled for April 22nd. The Opening Day will once again include a parade of all of the players, recognition of our sponsors, food, and baseball and softball games throughout the day. Come on down and support our local kids on April 22nd.

Once again the Park Department will be offering golf tournaments for kids between the ages of 5-16 throughout the summer. Each tournament will be held at Eagle Glen Golf Course. The schedule for the tournaments can be found on our park website and the cost to play is \$12/tournament. These tournaments have steadily grown over the years and have been a lot of fun for the kids. For more information you can contact the Park Department at 248-5180.

This is just a reminder that Burnworth Pool is permanently closed and it will not be open this summer. There has been a large amount of money already raised for a new outdoor aquatic facility. Hopefully the new facility can be opened in 2018! We are excited and thankful for the community's support in this major project!

The Fireworks show will be held this year at Morsches Park on July 3rd. We will again have "Dr. Feelgood and the 80's Babies" performing for our concert this year. They were very impressive as they performed their version of several different 80's band songs. Their concert will begin at 8:00pm and end at around 10:00pm. It will be a fun night of music, and several different food vendors will be available for your choosing as well. Don't miss out on this fun night in Columbia City!

Are you interested in renting our indoor pavilion this summer? Since the renovation of our pavilion was completed back in 2015, our pavilion has been used very frequently for graduation parties, reunions, and meetings. If you are interested in renting this facility, just call 248-5180 to see if it is available. The cost for weekend daily rental is \$160, with a refundable deposit of \$30. During the week (Monday-Friday) the cost is \$80/day.